

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ERNST FUCHS

ART UNIT: 3775

SERIAL NO.: 10/519,772

EXAMINER: JAMES L. SWIGER, III

FILED: DECEMBER 24, 2004

CONFIRMATION NO.: 6953

TITLE: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

PETITION UNDER RULE 136(a) FOR A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION

Mail Stop RCE
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

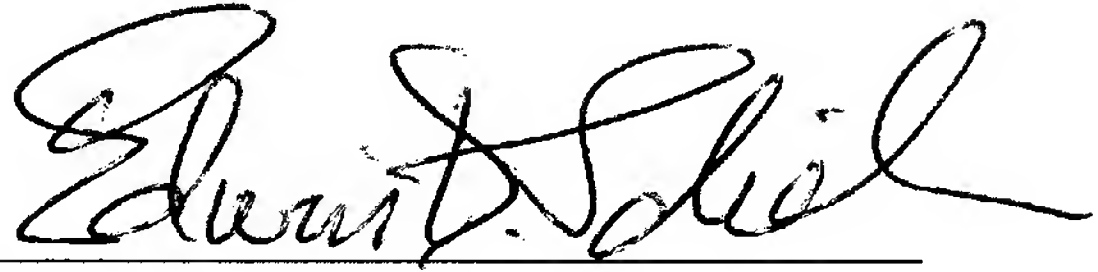
Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), for a three-month extension, until June 10, 2009, in which to file a *Request for Continued Examination and Amendment in Response to the Final Office Action* to the final Office Action, dated December 10, 2008, for the above-identified patent application. The shortened-statutory

period for response expired on March 10, 2009. The requisite fee of \$555.00 (small entity) is being concurrently remitted via EFT.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST FUCHS

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June 10, 2009